XIII.

REPORT OF THE RECEPTION, BY THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, OF CAPTAIN HALL AND HIS OFFICERS, PREVIOUS TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR THE ARCTIC REGIONS, HELD JUNE 26TH, 1871.

Introductory Address of the President.

It is proper that I should say, ladies and gentlemen, in receiving Captain Hall, that the whole merit of getting up this expedition is due to him alone. It was his unaided efforts at Washington which have resulted in the expedition which he is about to undertake, and which will leave here to-morrow or the day following. I hope that the same indomitable energy which enabled him, single-handed and alone, to succeed in getting up this expedition, will be attended by still more auspicious results in his efforts to reach the Pole. (Applause.) He is undertaking a task of very great difficulty. He proposes to first make the attempt by Jones' Sound. After the great difficulties which Sir Edward Belcher had to encounter in that direction, from the powerful current he met and the great accumulation of physical difficulties, we hope that the indomitable energy of Captain Hall and his gallant associates will enable them to discover more than was accomplished by the distinguished English commander. Captain Hall also proposes to try the further route by Smith Sound; but I propose, when we adjourn to the next room, where we have a large polar map, to ask Captain Hall to point out, for the benefit of those present, the exact route he proposes to take. The peril to be encountered is very great. The physical diffi-

culties have proved too many and serious, heretofore, for any expedition. He proposes to make the great journey to the Pole, if it can be reached, from the furthest known explored point, where our countrymen, Dr. Hayes and Dr. Kane, arrived at, a distance of 500 miles, by sledges, so far as the ice will admit, and by water, if water should intervene, requiring a journey by that element. He hopes to overcome the difficulties which carried Captain Parry far southward, by taking a more easterly direction. It may be asked, ladies and gentlemen, what object is there in reaching the Pole? A very distinguished scientific man of England said, the other day, in a public lecture, in reply to the question, "what is the use of science?" that the best illustration he could give was the answer that Dr. Franklin returned when some person asked him what was the use of his discovery in respect to the lightning. The answer he made was, "Tell me what is the use of an infant; make it of use!" And this distinguished lecturer followed it up by a much more significant illustration, saying that when Volta ascertained that the dead frog's leg would move by the application of two metals, a secret of nature was discovered which led, by a legitimate train of investigation, to the discovery of the eclectric telegraph. We do not know, and cannot estimate in anticipation, the consequences that will result from a more accurate knowledge of our globe. Columbus found very few who would sympathize with him, or who perceived the utility of the effort on his part to go out into the unknown waste of waters beyond the Straits of Gibraltar, in pursuit of a new country. Who can, at this time, estimate the important advantages which have followed upon that successful adventure! If, now, it should be possible to reach the Pole, and possible to make accurate observations at that important point, from the relation which the globe bears to the sun and to the whole stellar universe, the most important results are very likely to follow in a

more thorough knowledge of our own globe; results bearing upon one of the most important of principles—magnetism; not only the laws of revolution of our globe, the laws of life, the laws of vegetation, a law that seems to pervade everything that pertains to the surface of the globe, and even to the interior, to say nothing of the important bearing of it upon a science yet in its infancy, the science of meteorology, the science of the atmosphere, the great influence which is the cause of life and vegetation, and the untold influences which result in the general welfare of mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen, if we stop for a moment to reflect upon the great advantages which we enjoy at present in civilization, in everything that we enjoy, our habits, comforts, business, everything that is elevating to us, we would be astonished to find how large a portion of them can be traced to the slow and patient investigation of some scientific discoverer, who patiently unfolded the truth which led to developments which we are reaping the full advantage of. There is no scientific inquiry which we can ever estimate what the results might be, but, taught by the whole experience of the past, taught from everything that has been known from the beginning of civilization, is of the highest importance to make true acquisitions to our knowledge; and there is no branch of our knowledge so important as a knowledge of the great planet which we inhabit. We have, within the last three or four centuries, achieved enormous results in the acquisition of that knowledge; much remains to be known; and one of the most important things to be known is the Pole.

You are sitting to-night, ladies and gentlemen, in the presence of those brave men, and this northern woman and her husband, who are going to make this perilous attempt in the cause of science and of mankind. You have honored the enterprise by your presence, and I have no doubt they will vindicate it as far as possible by all the energy with which they and their commander will

this investigation. You have before you, to-night, in the presence of Mr. Morton, the only man with Captain Parry, who has seen what possibly may be the open polar sea: at all events, one of two men who has seen water further to the northward than any man before his time. He feels sufficient interest in this expedition to go out upon it, and I hope that he may succeed in reaching that sea, and in exploring it. We have also the presence to-night of Mr. Bessels, who has recently arrived from Hammersfest, on the Arctic. I shall take pleasure in introducing him to the Society in the adjoining room, and he will perhaps say a word. We have also the presence of our friend Mr. Pavy, who, on the 6th of July, will go out on another expedition in the hope of reaching the Pole by the way of Behring Strait. I gave a somewhat lengthened account at the last meeting, Mr. Pavy being present, too modest to speak, of the expedition which he proposes to make, but I will say, at all events, that Captain Hall and his companions will attempt it in the eastward, and Mr. Pavy on the 6th of July in the westward. Mr. Pavy, though living from an early period of his youth in France, is, like Captain Hall, also an American, born in this country; so we will have two American explorers emulating each other in the attempt to add to the acquisition of human knowledge in this perilous experiment of traveling to the Pole. I will now, ladies and gentlemen, as the adjoining room is not as crowded as this, take the liberty of asking our guests to walk in there, and there I will ask Captain Hall to point out on the large Arctic map which covers the end of that room, the route he proposes to follow.

Address of Captain Hall.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. President and Members of the American Geographical Society of New York: If I were asked my choice whether I would speak to you to-night, or make a sledge journey to the North Pole, by all means I would take the latter. It is expected

of me that I will do everything; will commence to agitate the people, and make the North Pole subject popular, and then go to Congress and apply for an appropriation; then to select every man of the expedition; next to determine every detail from first to last, and then to come here to New York and make an address before one of the most learned societies of our country, and one of the most important of the world.

I need make no apology, for I have made not the least preparation to appear before such an audience. I am overwhelmed with calls from every direction. My duties to the expedition which I have the honor to command are many, and I know not how it is that I am able to stand here to-night to attempt to address you.

In the fall of 1869, I returned from an expedition of five consecutive years in the Arctic regions, as many of you well know. Those five years were spent in determining the fate of Sir John Franklin's party. On my return I commenced to get up an expedition in search of the North Pole. My idea was that I could become the salvation, as it were, of some of Sir John Franklin's expedition, thinking I would find some of them living among the Esquimaux. I found there were none living, and I therefore returned to the States, and at once commenced the agitation of the subject of getting up an expedition, the object of which was to reach the North Pole. In February, 1870, I landed in Washington. Almost my first call was upon the President of the United States. I detailed to him my plans, and the interview resulted in encouragement; and that encouragement carried me on and on, and the result is that the expedition is now ready, or about ready, to go to the North Pole. From the President I called upon the Congressmen, republicans and democrats. The encouragement that I received from all was overwhelming, and I must say to you here to-night, speaking the truth, that never in my life did I believe that there were so many good—glorious

good—souls as I found there in the Congress of the United States. You have no idea of the tasks they perform—of their incessant labor.

As I said, I received great encouragement from the President of the United States. He gave me leave, after fully investigating the subject, to use his name as being interested in the expedition and would like to have the question of the North Pole solved. The area surrounding the North Pole, ladies and gentlemen, consists of no less than 2,500,000 of square miles; almost equal to the United States proper. I have devoted no less than twelve years to the object of investigation in the Arctic Ocean. Many who have written to me, or who have appeared to me personally, think that I am of an adventurous spirit and of bold heart to attempt to go to the North Pole. Not so. It does not require that heart which they suppose I have got. The Arctic Region is my home. I love it dearly; its storms, its winds, its glaciers, its icebergs; and when I am there among them, it seems as if I were in an earthly heaven or a heavenly earth. The numerous letters that I have received, from time to time, from various parts of the country, show to me how interested men are in the subject of the investigation or discovery of this part of our globe. If I were asked, is it possible for a man to reach that point of our earth? I should answer yes. I believe I have done the greater part of the work of reaching there, to wit: I have got the means to go there from a liberal government; and if there is anything wanting, it will be my own fault. I supposed, being a civilian, I would be met with a cold shoulder by those belonging to the navy. The statute was so passed that the money appropriated for this expedition was put into the hands of the President. The President, after appointing me commander, turned me over to the Secretary of the Navy, the Hon. George M. Robeson; not that he is a republican, but a man of the world. I almost worship him. Not one requisition that I have made of him, in

reason, has he refused me. He asks me what I wish; what will contribute toward the success of the expedition; I tell him, and it is at once forthcoming.

But a moment before I left Brooklyn and my favorite "*Polaris*," I was waited upon by the commandant of the navy yard, who told me if there was anything more wanted, to name it. I told him what I had, and thanked him in the name of the geographical societies of the earth. I told him the encouragement I had received from the naval men was enough to carry me to the North Pole. I have chosen my own men; men that will stand by me through thick and thin. Though we may be surrounded by innumerable icebergs, and though our vessel may be crushed like an egg-shell, I believe they will stand by me to the last. What has troubled me more than anything else is the selection of an astronomer. Not until the last moment have I been successful in getting a man that will venture on the expedition, and he will ever be remembered, for he has the boldest heart, and his name is Bryan. His parents are, I believe, in this audience. I met them for the first time to-day, and I can but thank them that they have given to the world a son who is willing to give up his life for science. I have selected a gentleman who has come highly recommended from Germany, and who will assume chief command of the scientific portion of the expedition. The work that he will have upon his hands will be equal to that of four ordinary men. Such men I have tried to get about me, and I have been successful.

The Route.

I propose to leave the port of New York and go into Davis Straits, first stopping at St. Johns, Newfoundland. The yellow of this chart represents the land, the blue the sea, while the white represents the area of the Polar region unknown. During no less than three centuries and a half have various nations been attempting to reach

the pole. Expeditions after expeditions have been organized and formed, and, after all, the highest elevation—the highest latitude—was that reached by Sir Edward Parry in 1827, 82°, 45′. After spending a few days at this island (Newfoundland), lying at about 70°, I shall cross Baffin's Bay, with the land of Greenland aboard, as we call it, on the starboard side, keeping between the drifting flood and the land line. After getting to Cape York, or a little above it, to Cape Diggs, I then expect to run on a parallel with Jones' Sound, latitude 76°. The land then trends to the northward. If I find land, and water will permit me to go to latitude 80°, I shall do so with the Polaris; but it may be that I shall encounter heavy pack ice coming out of Jones' Sound with the current, which comes to the eastward, which would drive me back. In this case I shall pursue the route of Dr. Kane, up Smith Sound. From what we know of the report of Dr. Hayes, I shall attempt the west side of Smith Sound. The reason why no further attempts have been necessary to be made on the east side of Smith Sound is that, by the configuration of this sea, the glaciers from the north throw down their icebergs and fill up this bay here, and spread to the southward where Kane had his winter quarters. You will recollect what Dr. Hayes now calls Kane Point, and because of that drift pressing upon that point he never was able to get his Advance out. Therefore, Dr. Hayes made no attempt to follow that course, but went into Port Hope. When he left, in 1861, he crossed directly over to Cape Isabella, and from the heights of Cape Isabella he saw to the north an opening next to the land that would have admitted, had he had a steam vessel, of his going something like fifty miles to the northward, where he would undoubtedly have still found open water.

I say, failing in Smith Sound, I shall go into Jones Sound; and failing to find a way between the land and the ice, I shall go back, and perhaps take harbor where

Dr. Hayes took his; perfectly satisfied to let that be the basis of my operations in reaching the North Pole. I have no idea of getting the Polaris higher than latitude 80° this year. The balance of the distance, 600 miles, is only 600 geographical miles, or 702 English, making the journey to the Pole 1,400 English miles. The journey from latitude 80°, from the harbor, I shall make in April of next year. The animals used for draft will be dogs. No one estimated the value of dogs higher than Dr. Kane. The English think but little of them from the fact that they seldom or never used them. I have before now made a journey of 600 miles for the purpose of getting dogs to increase my team.

At Disco and other places in the upper part of Greenland I expect to get my dogs, and shall take great pains in selecting them. Having gone into winter quarters a month or two before starting, the dogs will be well fed up; and I have found that the Esquimaux make their dogs draw from 350 to 400 pounds each. Dr. Kane found that they could draw 600 pounds. The Esquimaux make them draw more from the peculiar way in which they use their sledges. They shoe them with ice, so that the attrition with the crystals of snow, or friction, is hardly anything, while if you have polished steel or iron, with the thermometer at 30° or 40° below zero, the attrition is much greater. I shall start from latitude 80° with no less than five sledges, each sledge drawn by fifteen dogs and accompanied by two men. The five or six sledges starting for the Pole will be fully provisioned, and when the provisions of one sledge are nearly exhausted, the remaining four will continue on, while the other returns at once. When the provisions of another sledge are exhausted it will also return, the other three continuing on. This arrangement will be carried out until the final 100 miles is made by the last sledge. Whether I shall find a continuation of land beyond Grinnell Land on to the Pole I do not know, but I am prepared to see open water; and

should I find this, then I shall go on by portable boats. Any Arctic traveler would prefer to find open water, for the hardest work men have done is that of sledging.

I have been reminded that I must be as brief as possible, as I must repeat my explanation in the other room. I shall also take occasion there to ask Dr. Bessels, our naturalist, to say a word or two before his departure.

The company, at the conclusion of Captain Hall's remarks, repaired to the adjoining room, where a flag was presented to Captain Hall and his party by Mr. Henry Grinnell, in the following speech:

Speech of Mr. Grinnell.

This is quite a noted flag, and has seen peril by land and peril by sea and ice. In 1838 it went with Wilkes' expedition to a higher latitude toward the Southern Pole than any American flag ever went before. In 1850 the flag was presented to me by Lieutenant Walker, who took it to the Southern regions, with the request that I would loan it to De Haven. He took it to a higher latitude in the Northern regions than any other flag had ever been. Dr. Kane took it, with another expedition, to a still higher northern latitude. When Dr. Hayes went on his expedition I loaned it again to him, and he carried it about thirty-seven miles higher than an American flag had ever been before.

Now, I give it to you, sir. Take it to the North Pole, and bring it back a year from next October.

Reply of Captain Hall.

I really feel from the bottom of my soul that this flag, in the spring of 1872, will float over a new world; a new world, in which the North Pole star is its crowning jewel.

Judge Daly, Ladies and Gentlemen: We are very familiar with the name of the German geographer, Dr. Petermann. The world is more indebted to him than to any living man, for acquisitions in respect to every branch

of geography that involves new discoveries; but particularly in respect to the exploration of the Arctic. He, himself, as you are aware, projected an expedition. The gentleman who goes out in the present expedition as a naturalist has done so under the inspiration of Dr. Petermann. I propose, therefore, introducing to you Dr. Bessels, who will make a remark or two.

Remarks of Dr. Bessels.

I am deeply satisfied, ladies and gentlemen, to be one of your guests to-night, and you will allow me to give expression to my feelings in a few words. I am not very familiar with the language of your country as yet, but I think I may be capable of understanding and appreciating the kind nature of your invitation, such universal language of the heart which binds together men devoted to science. Perhaps, under other circumstances, it would have been better to postpone the reception you give to the members of our expedition until we return, until our deeds will speak for us; but fortunately we have a commander, I mean Captain Hall, whose enthusiasm in support of Arctic explorations will justify the belief that he will succeed. If anything could be an additional stimulus to us during our trip, I think it will arise from the fact that such eminent men of science, such as compose this Society, are watching with interest the actions of our expedition, and are scrutinizing the results of our work.

Colonel Myers, in behalf of Mr. Octave Pavy, here came forward and said:

I am requested by my friend Mr. Pavy, who was with us at our last meeting, and is now about to set forth on an expedition toward the Pole, to return to the Society his sincere thanks, which he would himself convey if more familiar with our language. He desires me to say on his behalf that he will make the Society the medium of his communications with the scientific world, should he be successful in his operations, and will leave New

York with the most grateful appreciation of the consideration which has been shown him by the Society.

Remarks of a Member in Response — Mr. Francis A. Stout.

The Society hopes Mr. Pavy will favor us with the results of his observations in the Arctic Circle, and will send us, as he may be able, sketches, photographs and manuscript results of his search, so that he may give to the world, through this Society, and through no other, an account of his explorations and discoveries.

The President.

Mr. Pavy requests me to return an answer in the affirmative to your request. I desire very much, ladies and gentlemen, that Mr. Morton should say a word to you; but he is more accustomed to discovering open Polar seas than opening his mouth. His name has become a historical one. It is associated with the names of Kane and Hayes, with our first Arctic exploration, and he is now to be associated with the present expedition. The warm wishes of this Society, and the warm wishes of his countrymen, will accompany him especially, together with Captain Hall and all their brave associates. The remaining duty, ladies and gentlemen, is to invite you to retire to the adjoining room, where a collation has been prepared.

I am requested again to introduce Mr. Morton to the audience, as he happens to be here now.

Mr. Morton's Speech.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I am placed in a position that I am not fit to hold at the present time. I would be more at home under my commander, yoked on to a sledge or pushing our way through Baffin's Bay, than in standing before an intelligent audience such as I see here. You are, I suppose, well acquainted with my former proceed-

ings, I having been a member of the first and second Grinnell expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin. It was my sad fortune to lose as brave a man as ever lived. He has passed from among us into a world where martyrs receive their reward. I would have gone to the end of the world with him under any circumstances, and it was his intention to go again to the North Pole or up to the Arctic regions, and of course I was to accompany him; but between getting hold of, and losing my former commander, I gave up the idea of ever going again to the Polar regions, until some nine months ago, Captain Hall, knowing me by reputation, was kind enough to come to me and ask me to accompany him. I was almost too glad of the honor that he offered. I belong to Captain Hall's party, and I don't see, ladies and gentlemen, that there will be any difficulty in reaching the Pole.

Dr. Kane's small, emaciated crew, after starving and freezing, after the terrible winter that we spent in those regions, accomplished 1,400 miles under most extraordinary circumstances; sometimes dragging our boats on sledges, and then putting our sledges in boats, as ice and water intervened between us. We were eighty-six days on short allowance; but we bore it with the courage and patience of men who had a duty to perform, and we were willing to do so. The water that is spoken of by Dr. Kane in his interesting narrative I have seen, and I believe now, as I believed then, the open Polar Sea was before us. I don't want any person to take my word for it. I am willing to show it to my commander, and to go into that sea and see whether it exists at all, and, if so, to what extent. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your kind attention.

The President.—I shall ask Captain Hall to point out again the proposed route on the map, after which we will adjourn to the other room.

Captain Hall's Remarks.

My intention was, in fact my orders were, to leave here to-morrow, but owing to delays, the public being responsible for a portion of them, it is not likely that we shall leave the port of New York until Thursday next. After leaving here, in about one week we will reach St. John's, and spend some three or four days there recoaling. Then we go on to the northward, keeping with this channel between the Labrador coast and Greenland. A vessel from France is expected every day now, the vessel that took our charities to the French people. As soon as she arrives, she will take about three hundred tons of coal and one hundred tons of provisions. The rendezvous is at Disco Island, first touching at Holsteinburg. If no ice obstructs, the rendezvous is to be at Upernavik. Taking aboard additional coal, filling up the Polaris to the utmost capacity, and taking provisions, I bid farewell to the civilized world. Whether you will hear from me at the end of one year and a half or five, I know not. I am going with the determination to conquer. This store of provisions that we shall take aboard will answer for loading down the Polaris; then, if at any time they should fail us, we can return to the place where we shall have left a large quantity of provisions, and then we can fight back again until we reach the North Pole. My instructions from the Secretary of the Navy are, on reaching Cape Diggs to go in such direction as I choose, trying, if I please, Jones Sound. After entering Jones Sound about 100 miles, then will commence my duty of trying to discover and reach the Pole. On reaching latitude 80°, as I remarked before, I expect to go into harbor and there remain during the Arctic winter. The absence of the sun during my next winter will be 120 days, and the following winter, six months. On reaching that point called the North Pole, the north star will be directly over head. Without an instrument, with merely the eye, a man can define his position when there. Some astronomers tell me I will

find a difficulty, when getting near the North Pole, in determining my position. It will be the easiest thing in the world. Suppose I arrive at the North Pole and the sun has descended. Suppose there is an island at the North Pole; around it is the sea. I see a star upon the horizon; that star will remain on the horizon, if I were to remain a thousand years at the Pole, without varying one iota in height. Then, again, when I am at the Pole on the 23d of June, I take the latitude of the sun; just 23½° high at one and all hours. Five days before the 24th of June, and five days after, with the finest instruments we have, you cannot determine one iota of change. Therefore you will see that it is the easiest thing in the world to determine when you arrive at the North Pole. The phenomena displayed there will be deeply interesting, provided there is land there; and I am satisfied, from the traditions I have learned from the Esquimaux, that I will find land there.